

II. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-32 were pending in the case at the time of the Office Action, with claims 33-43 having been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 5-7, 10-13, and 31 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. Thus, claims 1-4, 8-9, 14-30, and 32 are currently under consideration.

B. Response to Office Communication

According to the Office Communication, the response to restriction requirement filed on July 20, 2007 is said to not fully be responsive to the restriction requirement mailed June 6, 2007 because the elected species of SEQ ID NO:11 does not correspond to the sequence disclosed in the sequence listing, and because certain listed claims are not readable upon the elected species.

In response to the restriction requirement imposed by the Examiner, Applicants have previously elected, without traverse, the Group I invention (claims 1-32, drawn to a method for preparing a peptide antigen with modulated immunogenicity, said method comprising substituting at least a first amino acid located in a CTL epitope with a first substituted amino acid residue having an extended or shortened side chain as compared to the first amino acid residue). In response to the election of species imposed by the Examiner, Applicants elect, without traverse, F8-1: KIFGSLA-iso-Phe-L (SEQ ID NO:11). This peptide includes the unnatural amino acid iso-Phe to modulate the side chain. The claims readable upon the elected species include claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 14-30 and 32. Claims 5-7, 10-13, and 31 have been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Applicants note an erroneous designation of SEQ ID NO:11 in the sequence listing. The correct sequence is KIFGSLA-iso-Phe-L. Applicants concurrently file herewith a replacement sequence listing.

D. Conclusion

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (512) 536-5639 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Monica A. De La Paz

Reg. No. 54,662

Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701
512.474.5201 (telephone)
512.536.4598 (fax)

Date: April 2, 2008